274869 HYUNDAI AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER, INC.

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November 12, 2003

Mr. Stephen R. Kratzke
Associate Administrator for Rulemaking
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Petition for a Determination of Inconsequential Noncompliance with FMVSS 120, Tire Selection and Rims for Motor Vehicles other than Passenger Cars

Dear Mr. Kratzke:

Pursuant to Part 556 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, <u>Kia Motor</u> Corporation is requesting exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, Title 49, Subtitle VI, Part A, Chapter 301, Subchapter II, Sec. 30118 (notification of defects and noncompliance) and Sec. 30120 (remedies for defects and noncompliance) for failure to comply with FMVSS 120.

69,160 model year 2002, 2003 Sedona 4 door multipurpose passenger vehicles produced beginning May 1,2001 through October 2,2003 and 47,314 model year 2003, 2004 Sorento 4 door multipurpose passenger vehicles produced beginning June 1,2002 through October 2,2003 by Kia Motor Corporation and distributed within the United States by Kia Motors America are affected.

Section 5.2, rim marking, of FMVSS 120; tire selection and rims for motor vehicles other than passenger cars, requires that each rim be marked with certain information on the weather side, including:

5.2 (a) A designation which indicates the source of the rim's published nominal dimensions, and 5.2 (c) The symbol DOT

The rims installed on the affected vehicles do not contain the markings required by S5.2 (a) or S5.2 (c) of FMVSS 120.

The affected rims are 6JJ x 15" (Sedona) aluminum alloy and 7JJ x 16" (Sorento), which are commonly available and utilized in the United States. They are a correct specification for mounting the 215/70R15 tires specified for all Sedona and the P245/70R16 tires for all Sorento models, and which are capable of carrying the GVWR of the vehicle. Kia Motors Corporation first became aware of this condition on Sedona and Sorento vehicles during an internal FMVSS compliance audit. No accidents or injuries have been reported.

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THE SALE

HYUNDAI AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER, INC.

No customer complaints have been received related to the lack of the markings or any problem that may have resulted from the lack of the markings. The missing markings do not affect the performance of the wheels or the tire and wheel assemblies.

The rims are marked in compliance with Sections 5.2 (b) (rim size designation), 5.2 (d) (manufacturer identification), and 5.2 (e) (month, day and year) or (month and year) of manufacture. The rims are also marked with the Kia part number.

The tire size is marked on the tire sidewalls, and the owner's manual and tire inflation pressure label contain the appropriate tire size to be installed on the original equipment rims. Therefore, Kia Motors Corporation does not believe that there is a possibility of a tire and rim mismatch as a result of the missing rim markings.

Kia Motors Corporation requests that NHTSA consider this petition and grant an exemption from the recall requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act on the basis that the noncompliance described above is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety.

Sincerely,

2 Alfred Gloddeck

Senior Manager, Corporate Affairs